

FY 2021-2022, 1st Quarter

November 30, 2021



Los Angeles County **HOMELESS INITIATIVE**

Quarterly Report #21

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABOUT THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY HOMELESS INITIATIVE	2
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4
IMPACT DASHBOARD.....	6
○ HOMELESS PREVENTION	7
○ STREET OUTREACH	9
○ SUPPORTIVE SERVICES AND EMPLOYMENT	11
○ INTERIM HOUSING	14
○ PERMANENT HOUSING AND RENTAL SUBSIDIES.....	17
PANDEMIC RESPONSE.....	19
SUCCESS STORIES	20
EVOLVING APPROACHES AND NEW INSIGHTS	23
EXHIBITS	
○ EXHIBIT 1: HOMELESS INITIATIVE PERFORMANCE DATA BY STRATEGY	
○ EXHIBIT 2: SELECT STRATEGY PERFORMANCE DATA BY SERVICE PLANNING AREA	
○ EXHIBIT 3A: DEMOGRAPHIC ENROLLMENT DATA FOR SELECT STRATEGIES	
○ EXHIBIT 3B: DEMOGRAPHIC SERVICE DATA FOR SELECT STRATEGY	



Los Angeles County HOMELESS INITIATIVE

Created by the **Board of Supervisors** in 2015, the **Homeless Initiative** directs, oversees, and evaluates Los Angeles County's ongoing effort – unprecedented in scale – to expand and enhance services for people at risk of or experiencing homelessness, largely financed by Measure H.

From Malibu to Claremont, Long Beach to Lancaster, and everywhere in between, the Homeless Initiative provides the **strategies** and **funding** that enable a comprehensive and diverse group of **partners** – from County departments and agencies to city governments, community-based nonprofit service providers, and more – to scale up the following:

- **Homeless Prevention** for people at risk of eviction as well as those exiting foster care, hospitals, jails and other institutions
- **Outreach** so that people living in encampments and vehicles can be connected to housing and supportive services
- **Supportive Services** such as health and mental health care, substance use disorder treatment, criminal record clearing, benefits enrollment, job training and employment, and other services to help people achieve stability and potentially self-sufficiency
- **Interim Housing**, such as shelters and sober living facilities
- **Permanent Housing** with subsidized rent and, if necessary, supportive services for those with acute needs

Measure H, a ¼-cent sales tax approved by 70% of County voters in 2017, is projected to raise about \$355 million every year before expiring in **2027**. It is the first and only funding stream dedicated to addressing and preventing homelessness countywide.

The Homeless Initiative is part of the County's Chief Executive Office. While it works with almost all County departments on policies and programs related to homelessness, the Homeless Initiative has designated some County departments and agencies as its **Strategy Leads**.

County of Los Angeles Departments:

- [Children and Family Services \(DCFS\)](#)
- [Health Services \(DHS\)](#)
- [Mental Health \(DMH\)](#)
- [Public Health \(DPH\)](#)
- [Public Social Services \(DPSS\)](#)
- [Sheriff's Department \(LASD\)](#)
- [Probation](#)
- [Public Defender \(PD\)](#)
- [Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services \(WDACS\)](#)



Agencies serving Los Angeles County

- [Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority \(LAHSA\)](#)
- [LA County Development Authority \(LACDA\)](#)

County departments and agencies contract with more than 100 community-based [nonprofit service providers](#) to help people at risk of or experiencing homelessness throughout County's eight [Service Planning Areas \(SPAs\)](#)

For city-specific solutions, the Homeless Initiative awards Measure H funds to [city governments](#) within the County, supplementing federal and state funding. It also provides Measure H funds to Councils of Governments to facilitate regional coordination and innovation among their member city governments.

The County's homeless services system has seen dramatic growth in recent years, much of it driven by the implementation of Homeless Initiative strategies funded by Measure H. This Quarterly Report reflects that progress in the context of the dire affordable housing crisis impacting the region and state, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative's **21st Quarterly Report** tracks data on homeless prevention, outreach, supportive services, interim housing, and permanent housing strategies from the **first quarter of fiscal year 2021-22**, or July 1, 2021 - September 30, 2021.

It also presents **cumulative data starting from July 1, 2017**, when Measure H funds first became available, for a span of four years and three months.

HOUSING AND SHELTER

Since Measure H revenue began funding Homeless Initiative strategies, the County's homeless services system has provided permanent housing to 74,862 people and interim housing to 99,350 people. These include 31,036 permanent housing and 54,499 interim housing placements through programs funded completely or partially with Measure H.

In the first quarter of FY 2021-2022, the system provided permanent housing to 4,086 new people and interim housing to 9,350 people, including 951 permanent housing placements and 1,806 interim housing placements through Measure H-funded programs.



Supervisor Holly Mitchell opens Springhaven Apartments to tenants who were formerly homeless

The opening of the Rancho Los Amigos Recuperative Care Interim Housing facility during this reporting period will care for people experiencing homelessness after a hospital stay.



Supervisor Janice Hahn and LA County Health Services Director Dr. Christina Ghaly at the Rancho Los Amigos Recuperative Care Center

The federal government's release of 6,800 [Emergency Housing Vouchers](#) (EHVs) to Public Housing Authorities within the County can provide significant numbers of people with the rental subsidies they need to stop living on the streets or in shelters and transition into permanent housing.

This reporting period also saw the culmination of a yearlong effort to provide outreach, services, and housing to about 80 people living in an encampment known as "Veterans Row" near the West LA Veterans Affairs campus.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Homeless Initiative Strategy Leads ramped up outreach and housing for people experiencing homelessness, and also helped with vaccinations, treatment, quarantine, and other services. As of November 7, 2021, DHS' Housing for Health program administered more than 19,000 doses of vaccine to people experiencing homelessness and more than 4,000 doses to homeless services staff.



Supervisor Sheila Kuehl speaks out in support of tenants' rights

[Project Roomkey](#) has been providing temporary hotel or motel stays to people experiencing homelessness across California since the early days of the pandemic. The County has partnered with about 30 hotels and motels to shelter 10,869 people.



Supervisor Hilda Solis at the Care First Village, which opened during the pandemic to house people experiencing homelessness

Meanwhile, the first round of [Homekey](#) state funding enabled the County to purchase 10 hotels and motels that are now serving as homes or shelters for about 900 people experiencing homelessness during the pandemic. Looking to build on that success, the County issued [a solicitation](#) in the first quarter of this fiscal year to seek co-applicants for the second round of Homekey state funding so it can convert even more hotels and motels into housing. Each Homekey unit will ultimately include supportive services.

EVOLVING APPROACHES

Reponding to a Board of Supervisors [motion](#), the Homeless Initiative released [draft recommendations](#) for updating its strategies, originally developed in 2016, and held 14 virtual meetings to obtain community input.

Created by the Board of Supervisors, the [Blue Ribbon Commission on Homelessness](#) began hearings to assess LAHSA's governance and develop recommendations to enhance collaboration among the various regional stakeholders in addressing homelessness.



Supervisor Kathryn Barger serving food to people experiencing homelessness.



LOS ANGELES COUNTY HOMELESS SERVICES SYSTEM IMPACT DASHBOARD



74,862

**people placed in
permanent housing**

31,036 of total permanent housing placements
(41%) were completely or partially funded
through Measure H



99,350

**people placed
in interim housing**

55,499 of total interim housing placements
(55%) were completely or partially funded
through Measure H



PERIOD COVERED: 7/1/ 2017 - 9/30/2021 - 51 months total

(From the start date of Measure H funding through the most recent quarter of the current fiscal year)

HOMELESS PREVENTION

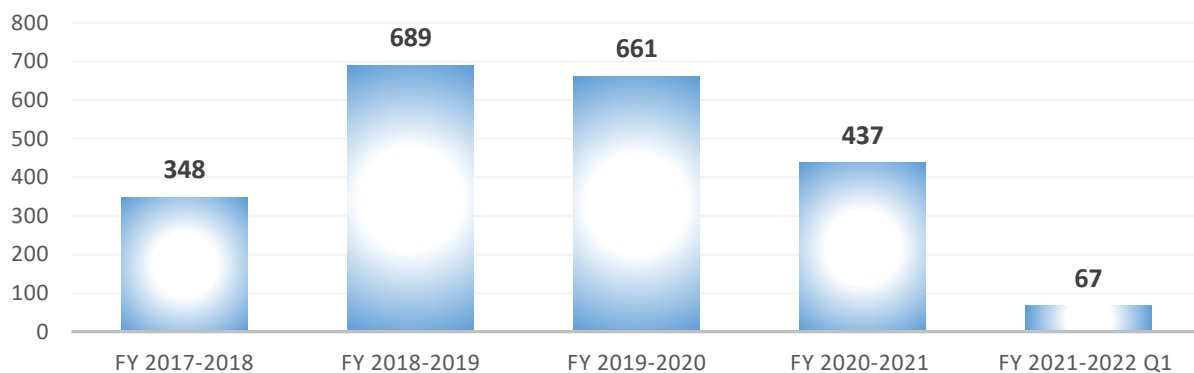
STRATEGY LEADS: LAHSA, DHS, DCBA, DCFS

Homeless Prevention services aim to help rent-burdened, low-income families and individuals resolve crises that would otherwise result in losing their homes.

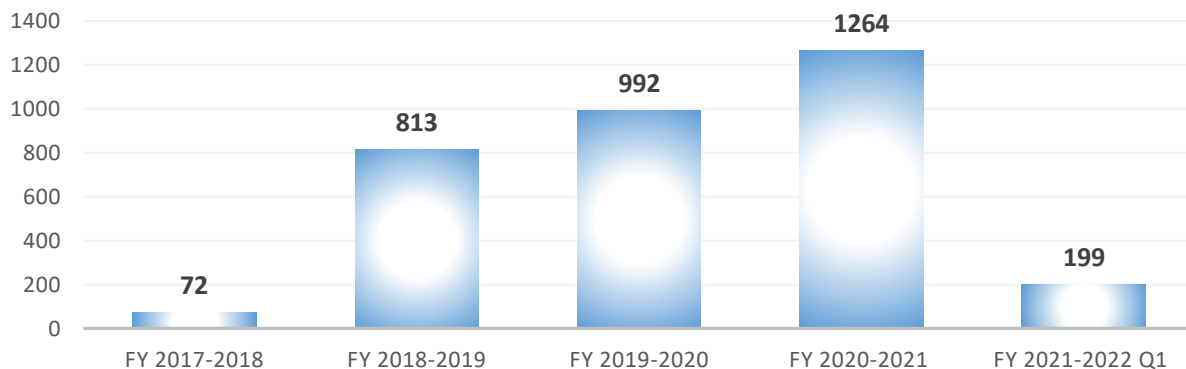
These services can include short-term rental subsidies, housing conflict resolution and mediation with landlords and/or property managers, and legal defense against eviction. Similar services are provided to help individuals avoid becoming homeless after exiting institutions like jails, hospitals, and foster care.



Families Prevented from Becoming Homeless



Individuals Prevented from Becoming Homeless



Homeless Prevention Strategy Highlights this Reporting Period:

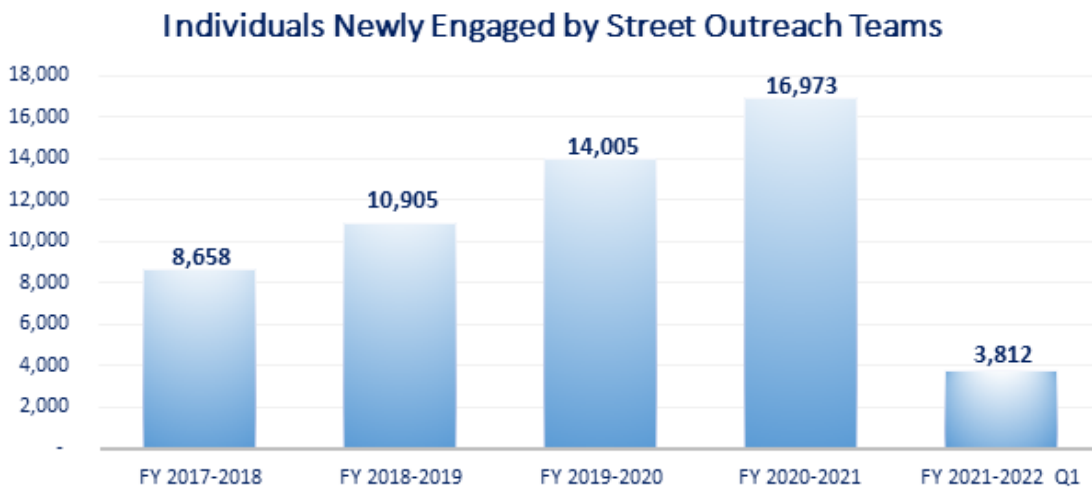
- **Homeless Prevention Unit:** The [Homelessness Prevention Unit](#) (HPU) in DHS began outreaching to prospective clients in July 2021. Once enrolled, clients are eligible for four months of case management support, financial assistance, and linkages to supportive services. They can use the financial assistance to help pay for rent, utilities, vehicle repairs, debt resolution and other needs. Clients are also connected to primary care, mental health services, employment training, legal services and other supportive services. The first group of HPU clients will complete the program in mid-November. HPU will monitor their housing retention at six-month and twelve-month intervals to assess long-term stability.
- **Problem-Solving:** LAHSA's [Problem Solving](#) Unit works with families and individuals in crisis to identify viable temporary or permanent housing and other resources within their own network of relatives and friends, or quickly connect them to existing emergency or crisis housing services. This quarter, LAHSA supported [DPSS](#) and [211 LA County](#) to each have eight and four Problem Solving Specialists, respectively.
- **Homeless Prevention Targeting Tools:** The California Policy Lab (CPL) developed new proposed [Homeless Prevention Targeting Tools](#) for adults and transition-aged youth, which LAHSA will begin piloting later this year. The tools are intended to help identify people with the highest risk of becoming homeless, so they can be targeted for homelessness prevention services.



OUTREACH

STRATEGY LEADS: LAHSA, DHS, DMH, LASD

Street-Based Outreach involves experienced teams building trusting relationships with people in encampments and connecting them to housing, health and mental health care, substance use disorder treatment, and other services – a process that can vary in length and is customized to meet individuals’ unique needs.



Types of Street Outreach Teams (*Receives Measure H funding):

- LAHSA has different types of street outreach teams that make initial contact and maintain ongoing engagement with people living on the streets; some specialize in working with certain populations, such as youth or veterans. Coordinated Entry System (**CES**) Teams* work to connect people with particularly acute needs to housing and supportive services while Homeless Engagement Teams* (**HET**) respond to requests made through the LA Homeless Outreach Portal or [LA-HOP](#). LAHSA’s Homeless Outreach Services Teams (**LAHSA HOST**)* handle outreach at larger encampments and hard-to-reach areas, and work with the Sheriff’s Department’s own HOST team and other cities’ law enforcement agencies.
- DHS Housing for Health has [Multidisciplinary Teams](#) (**MDT**)* whose staff have physical health, mental health, substance use, case management, and peer support experience, and serve clients with more complex health and/or behavioral health conditions. It also deploys Public Spaces Teams* to the County’s public spaces, such as parks and libraries.

- Department of Mental Health [Homeless Outreach and Mobile Engagement \(HOME\)](#) Specialist teams provide psychiatric support, outreach, and intensive case management to persons experiencing homelessness with serious mental illnesses.
- [Sheriff's Department HOST](#) teams support nonprofit homeless services agencies to increase public safety while preserving the rights and dignity of people experiencing homelessness.

Outreach Highlights this Reporting Period:

- **Response to COVID-19 Outbreaks:** This quarter, Public Health Nurses (PHNs) managed 198 COVID-19 outbreaks among sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness, performing investigations, testing, contact tracing, infection control assessments, and ensuring compliance with Health Officer Orders. They also provided referrals and linkages to isolation and quarantine shelters, Homekey sites, medical treatment, substance use treatment, and mental health resources, as well as vaccine education at 165 outbreak sites. PHNs collaborated with DHS' Housing for Health to provide vaccination clinics at sites where they identified low vaccination rates among residents and/or staff.
- **Veterans Row:** For the last year, outreach workers have been building relationships with individuals, mostly veterans, living at an encampment known as "Veterans Row" near the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs campus in West LA. The Homeless Initiative approved a Countywide Encampment Protocol in October, kicking off intensive rehousing efforts by LAHSA, the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), LASD HOST, County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's office, and several local nonprofit homeless service providers. By November, 82 people had relocated into the VA Care Treatment Rehabilitative Service housing (30), VA's Emergency Housing Assistance program (33), supportive housing (9), and Project Roomkey (10).
- **Mobile Shower Programs:** This quarter, 447 people experiencing homelessness accessed Measure H-funded mobile showers, where they also received hygiene kits, bagged lunches, clothing, and "light touch" case management, including help with replacing identification documents and service navigation to other resources.
- **Los Angeles Homeless Outreach Portal:** [LA-HOP](#) received 3,995 requests for an outreach team to be dispatched and offer services to a person experiencing homelessness.



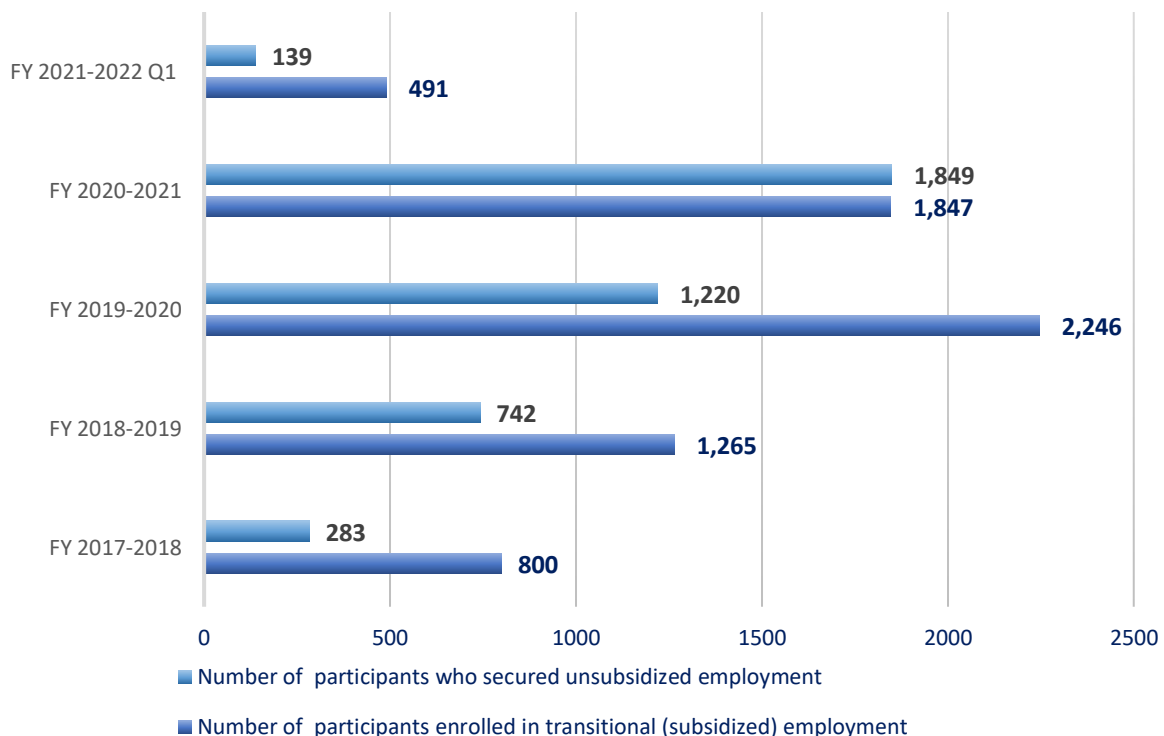
SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

STRATEGY LEADS: DHS, DMH, DCFS, LASD, WDACS, PD

Most homeless families and individuals need some level of case management and supportive services to secure and maintain permanent housing, though their needs vary greatly, depending on individual circumstances. The availability of appropriate case management and supportive services is key to enabling homeless families and individuals to take advantage of rental subsidies, increase their income, and access/utilize public services and benefits. Severely disabled homeless individuals can increase their income through federal disability benefits while many homeless adults can do it by securing employment.

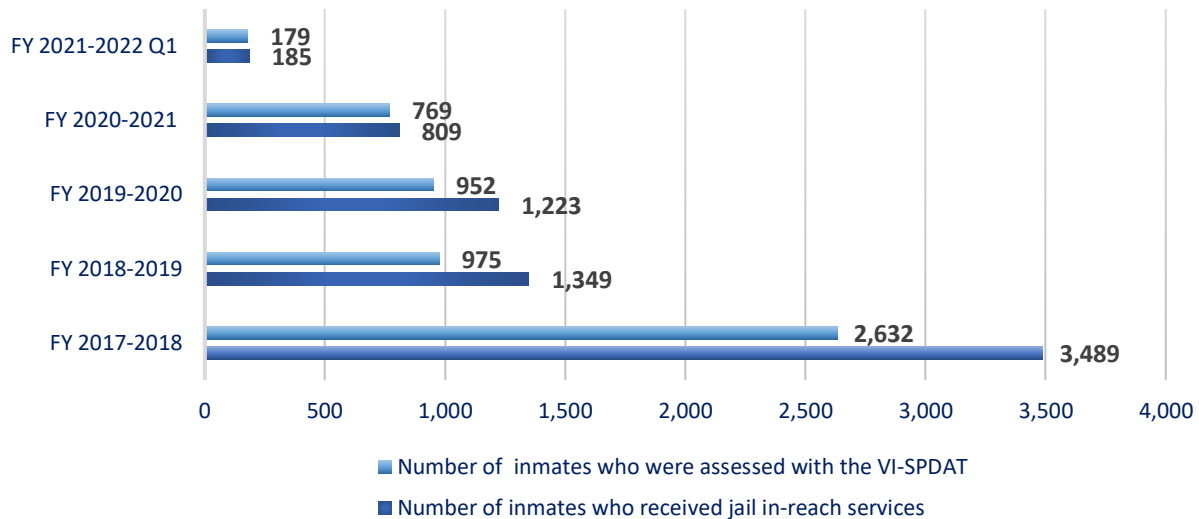
Employment Programs: WDACS uses Measure H to fund employment programs such as [LA:RISE](#), [Careers for a Cause](#), [Hire Up](#), and [Alternative Staffing Organizations](#) that leverage the capacities of social enterprises and the public workforce development system to provide people experiencing homelessness with subsidized employment opportunities and support services that ultimately lead to unsubsidized employment.

Employment Outcomes: WDACS'
Measure H- Funded Programs



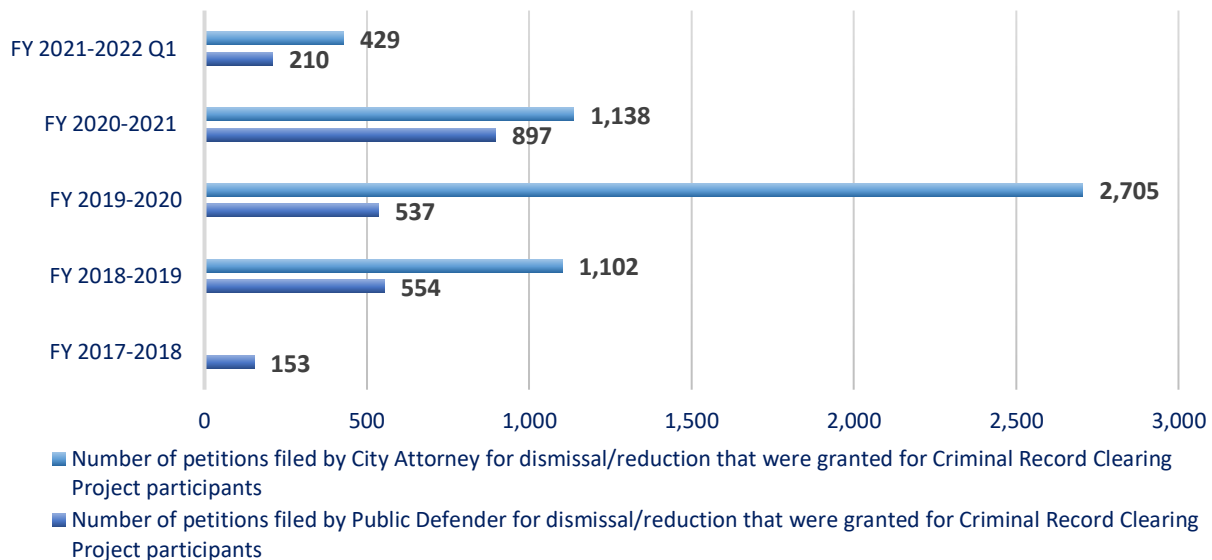
DHS and the Sheriff's Department collaborate to provide [Jail In-Reach](#), which helps homeless inmates secure housing and benefits upon their release. Declining enrollments, visible in the chart below, reflect an intentional shift to provide more intensive services to fewer clients.

Jail In-Reach Services



With the [Criminal Record Clearing Project](#), the LA County [Public Defender](#) and LA [City Attorney](#) provide legal services to help people experiencing or at risk of homelessness resolve outstanding infractions and associated warrants, which are often barriers to housing, employment, education, and legal immigration. While COVID-19 forced a reduction in outreach and continues to affect petition filings, most activities are expected to resume this year.

Criminal Record Clearing



Supportive Services and Employment Highlights this Reporting Period

- **Benefits Enrollment.** The Countywide Benefits Entitlement Services Team (CBEST) is continuing the work that led to its 89% application approval rating. Last quarter, 111 people at risk of or experiencing homelessness were approved for benefits and will now receive an average of \$961 monthly, along with a cumulative \$1,402,897 in retroactive backpay. Of the people assisted last quarter, three veterans will receive an average of \$2,548 in veterans' benefits on a monthly basis and \$82,070 in retroactive backpay.
- **Employment Services at Homeless Court:** Once a month, the City of Redondo Beach holds an outdoor Homeless Court to help people experiencing or at risk of homelessness eliminate certain minor traffic citations, warrants, quality of life citations, and related fines – all of which can detrimentally affect a person's employment and housing opportunities. Additionally, clients receive the services they need to access housing, mental health and substance use disorder treatment, and Measure H-funded record clearing services. This quarter, the South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB) also began offering the Measure H funded Regional Homeless Opportunity for Meaningful Employment (HOME) program and other services at the Homeless Court.



Photo Credit: LA Superior Court

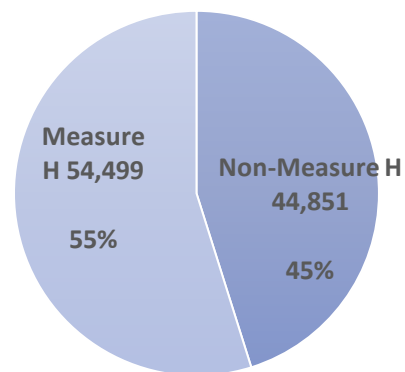
INTERIM HOUSING

STRATEGY LEADS: LAHSA, DHS, DMH, DPH

Interim Housing provides safe temporary accommodations for people who otherwise have nowhere to spend the night. Systemwide, more than 99,350 people experiencing homelessness have used interim housing since implementation of Measure H-funded strategies began in July 2017; of those placements, 54,499 people used interim housing completely or partially funded by Measure H. In the first quarter of this fiscal year (July 1 – September 30, 2021), 9,350 people utilized interim housing. This includes 1,806 people who were newly placed in interim housing that received funding from Measure H.

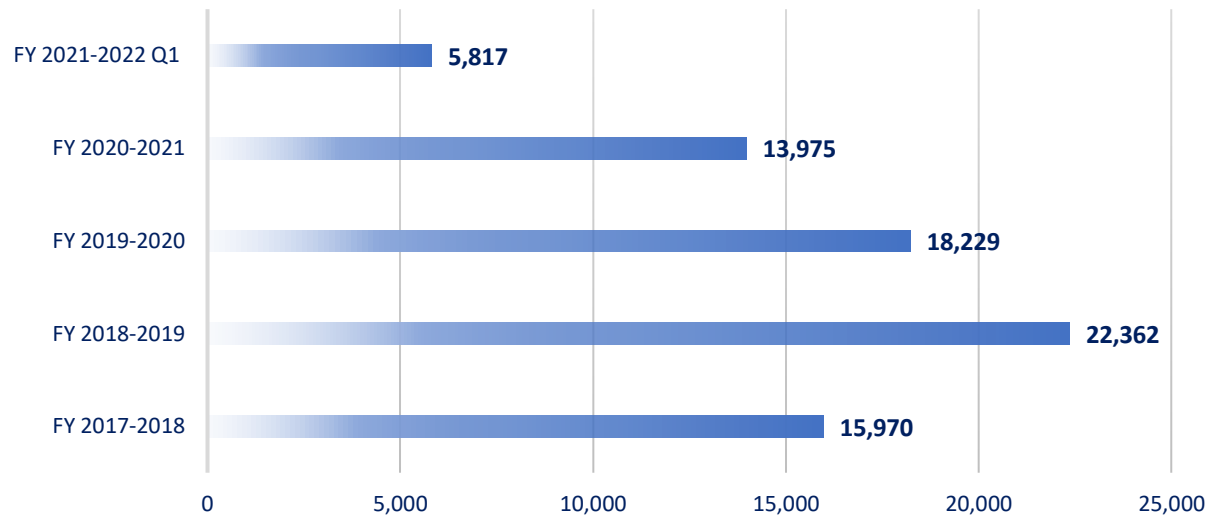
Types of Interim Housing:

- **Emergency Shelter Beds** provide crisis housing.
- **Stabilization Housing** provides placement options for individuals with complex health and or/behavioral health conditions who lack a place to live and need a higher level of support services than available in most shelters.
- **Bridge Housing** provides housing and support for homeless individuals prior to permanent housing placement. Some may be exiting institutions such as jails, hospitals or foster care.
- **Recovery Bridge Housing** provides a safe, stable living environment that is supportive of recovery for young adults (ages 18-20) and adults (ages 21+) who are receiving outpatient treatment for their substance use disorder.
- **Recuperative Care** provides short-term care and medical oversight to homeless individuals recovering from an acute illness or injury or with conditions that would be exacerbated by living unsheltered.
- **Board and Care/[Enriched Residential Care](#)** provides 24/7 care and supervision in licensed residential facilities and can be either interim or permanent housing.

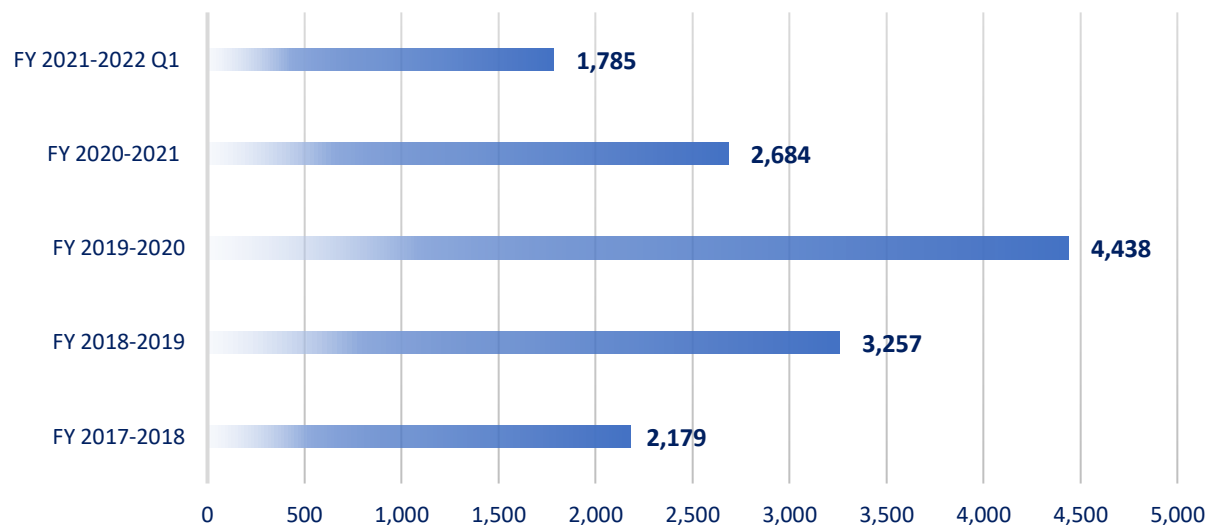


Interim Housing Placements
(7/1/2017 - 9/30/2021)

E8 Interim Housing Program: Number of People Active in the Program



B7 Interim Housing For People Exiting Institutions: Number of Individuals Served



Interim Housing Highlights this Reporting Period:

- **Throughput Pilot:** LAHSA will start an Interim Housing “Throughput Pilot” in the San Fernando Valley next quarter. This goal is to determine whether people have a higher

chance of transitioning from interim to permanent housing if they receive housing navigation support, where a housing navigator helps them develop a housing plan, address barriers, acquire documentation and complete forms necessary to secure and maintain housing.

- **Rancho Los Amigos:** The 50-bed DHS Housing for Health/Rancho Los Amigos Recuperative Care Interim Housing facility has begun providing supportive services to people experiencing homelessness upon discharge from Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center and/or hospitals throughout Los Angeles County.



Supervisor Janice Hahn touring the Rancho Los Amigos Recuperative Care Interim Housing



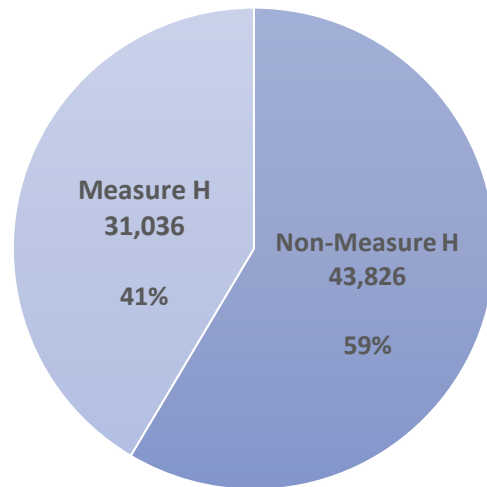
Photo Credit: Taylor Design

PERMANENT HOUSING

STRATEGY LEADS: LAHSA, DHS, DMH, DPH, LACDA

Permanent Housing strategies lift people out of homelessness by offering either short- or long-term rental subsidies in combination with varied levels of supportive services.

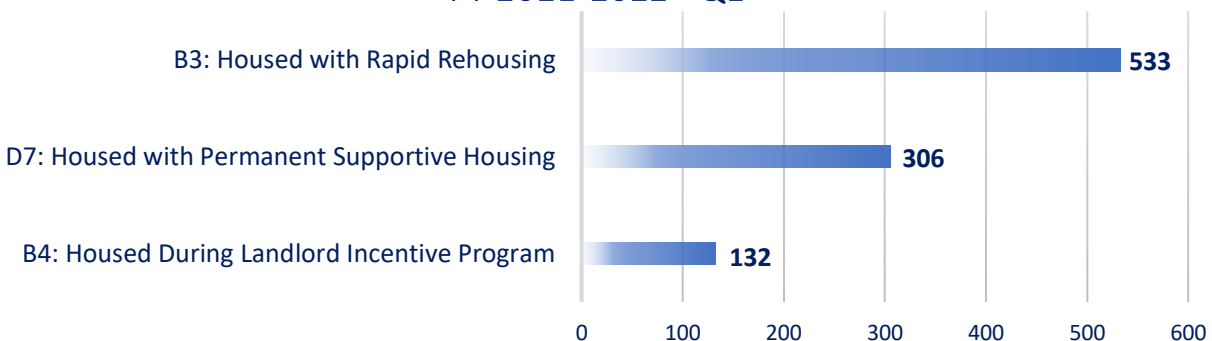
Since July 1, 2017, the County's homeless services system has placed 74,862 people in permanent housing, 31,036 of whom received Measure H funding. In the first quarter of fiscal year 2021-2022, 4,086 people were placed in permanent housing through the County's homeless services system, with 951 of those placements funded through Measure H.



Permanent Housing Placements
(7/1/2017 - 9/30/2021)

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) provides long-term rental subsidies and supportive services to individuals who have experienced chronic homelessness and have disabilities, chronic medical conditions, and/or behavioral health conditions. Measure H provided PSH to 306 additional households in the first quarter of FY 2021-2022 and is funding wraparound services for more than nearly 13,000 clients currently in or awaiting placement in permanent supportive housing.

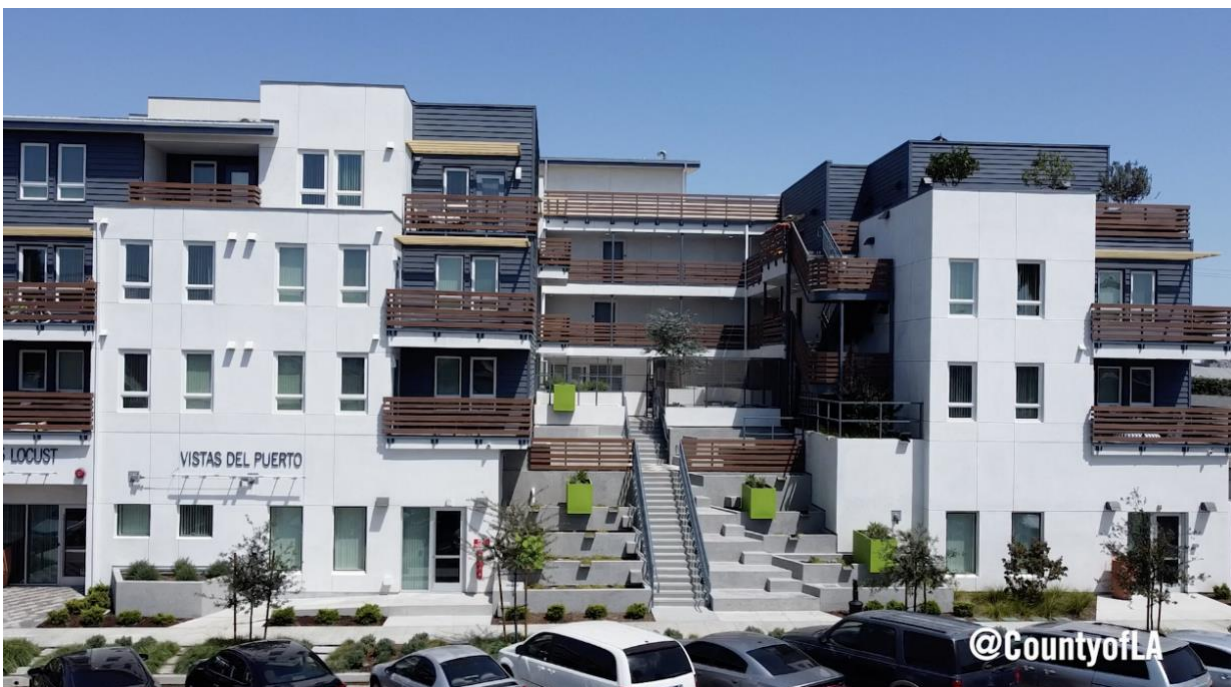
Permanent Housing Placements
In Selected Measure H-funded Programs*
FY 2021-2022 - Q1



*There may be duplication between B4 and D7 programs Because B4 is used to incentivize landlords to accept PSH vouchers, and many PSH vouchers are provided to D7 clients.

Permanent Housing Highlights this Reporting Period

- **Services and Subsidies at Newly Opened Housing Sites:** In the first quarter of this fiscal year, DHS Housing for Health filled more than 650 intensive case management services (ICMS) slots, which provide people with mental and physical disabilities who are experiencing homelessness with a range of wraparound supportive services, crucial to stabilizing them and helping them to maintain housing. Meanwhile, 300 additional units have opened or are in the process of leasing up in about 15 new buildings.
- **Vaccination Education:** DHS Housing for Health's COVID Champions team visited 38 permanent supportive housing sites in the first quarter of this fiscal year to educate residents about the COVID vaccine. They were accompanied by a nursing team who could vaccinate residents on the spot. The COVID Champions team also began educating residents about, and distributing, Naloxone for opioid overdoses.
- **\$4M Grant for In-Home Caregiving at PSH:** Cedars Sinai awarded DHS Housing for Health a \$4-million grant for two years to provide In-Home Caregiving services to permanent supportive housing clients in Metro and South Los Angeles. The funding will allow people to get the care they need while staying independently housed.
- **Leveraging Medi-Cal:** As part of a pilot program, DMH and DMH are working with a service provider at a permanent supportive housing site to explore whether some ICMS are eligible for Medi-Cal reimbursement. Leveraging federal funding would free up Measure H to be used for other services.



PANDEMIC RESPONSE

[Project Roomkey](#) is a first-in-the-nation effort to secure hotel and motel rooms for elderly and medically fragile homeless individuals and couples at high risk of complications if infected with COVID-19. Besides providing temporary shelter to 10,869 people countywide as of August 4, it enabled 30 hotels and motels to stay in business despite the economic downturn.

As Project Roomkey sites close, participants are matched to housing subsidies and connected to permanent housing. If none are immediately available, participants are placed in other temporary housing until they can be permanently housed. According to LAHSA, fewer than 4 percent of participants went back to living on the streets after exiting Project Roomkey.

With the first round of [Homekey](#) funding, the County purchased 10 hotels and motels. One immediately became permanent supportive housing while the rest are serving as interim housing until renovations can be completed that will transform them into permanent supportive housing. About 900 people are currently staying at Project Homekey sites.



The California Department of Housing and Community Development released a [Notice of Funding Available \(NOFA\)](#) for a second round of Homekey Funding, making an additional \$1.45 billion available to local jurisdictions. The County has issued a [Request for Statement of Interest \(RFSI\)](#) for prospective co-applicants for the Homekey Round 2 funding, and will review submissions over the coming months and plans to potentially acquire hundreds of additional Homekey units.



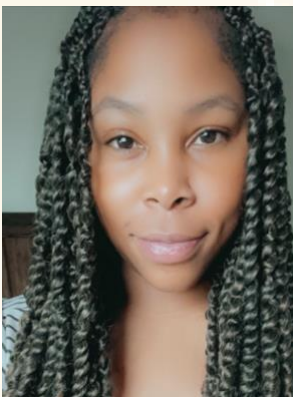
Support for Cities' and Tribes' Homekey Projects: The County is also taking steps to support cities and tribal entities within the County that seek to participate in Homekey.

The Board of Supervisors approved up to \$10 million of the County's State Housing Homelessness and Prevention (HHAP) funding to support cities within the County that are awarded Homekey funds by the state. These funds are available to tribal entities and cities that are not eligible to receive their own direct allocation of HHAP funding from the state and are to be used for operating costs for permanent housing sites. These funds will enable cities and tribal entities to draw down additional state operating funds, which are only available to jurisdictions that commit at least three years of their own operating funds.

SUCCESS STORIES



Karen Torres, 24, and Pedro Guerrero, 23, separated after losing their home, and Karen began living in her car with their then 1-year-old daughter, Josie. A woman saw them in the car and referred them to the Alliance for Children's Rights, which connected her to Upward Bound House where she received not only shelter but also help securing a part-time job and enrolling back in school. They were ultimately able to move into their own apartment, thanks to rental vouchers, and Karen was hired as a case manager for Crystal Stairs, a nonprofit serving families. Pedro, who also found employment, reunited with the family. "We are happy to be where we are in life," Karen said. "We are doing all this for Josie, to show her that anything is possible even when you hit rock bottom."



Kristen Byles, 24, and the mother of a 5-year-old girl and 1-year-old boy, became homeless after her father and stepmother moved out of state. When she could no longer remain with her boyfriend and his family, she stayed in hotels, shelters, and her car – while pregnant. Fortunately, she was able to participate in a subsidized employment and job training program through the UAW-LETC South LA Work Source Center. A month into the program, she was placed in permanent housing and eventually found unsubsidized employment as a security guard. "Being at UAW helped me to develop skills such as working with the public, being able to work on my own, and be trusted," she said. "Helping people and seeing that my help really made an impact made me feel good. I loved to see people walk out with smiles and be happy when I wasn't even all the way there myself."



When her mother became gravely ill and unable to work, Yasmin Velez, 18, dropped out of high school to support her family. Through the LA:RISE program, she obtained a job at the Los Angeles Conservation Corps as well as food and other assistance for her family. Yasmin was ultimately able to resume her education, earn her diploma, and get accepted into Cal State LA, where she is majoring in Child Development. "No matter what you are going through, never give up or lose faith! Your breakthrough may be around the corner," she said.



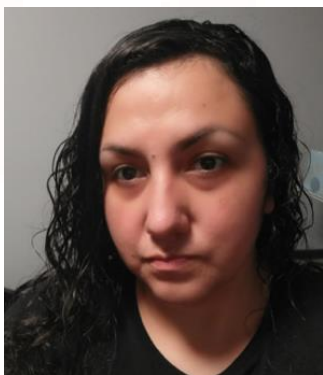
David Gendreau, 44, ended up couch surfing after losing his job. Through CEO Social Enterprise, he was able to get subsidized employment as part of a Caltrans cleanup crew. At the same time, the LA:RISE program at America's Job Center of California (AJCC) in Rancho Dominguez helped mitigate his employment barriers and create new opportunities. This included covering his union fees, providing him gas cards for the commute to work, and new tools. Now, David works as a journeyman for ACH Mechanical, earning \$50/hour, and is in the process of securing stable housing.



Lacheryl Mitchell, 56, lost her home after her longtime partner deceived her into thinking that rent was being paid. She found out the truth when the eviction notice came. While living in her car, she lost her 18-year old daughter to gun violence and spiraled into depression. Moving from shelter to shelter, she was eventually connected to Exodus Recovery, Inc. and the Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA), which helped her obtain rental assistance. Now, she has her own apartment with a space dedicated to her granddaughter for sleepovers and playdates. "There is hope," she said.



In Wesley K's own words: "It all started with my new rock bottom, which was getting kicked out of my parent's house, overdosing, and getting arrested – all in the same week." He sought inpatient and outpatient substance use disorder treatment at Phoenix House and Fred Brown Recovery Services, which included counseling and a 12-step program. "I was at a point in my life where I never thought I would be clean and sober, and in Fred Brown I realized I could do it. The support helped me get back to work and live on my own."



After serving three years and eight months in prison, Shasha Martinez, 38, was released into Vinewood, a court-ordered housing facility, that immediately helped her enroll in Goodwill's Alternative Staffing Organizations (ASO) program. Within 10 days, she had obtained a subsidized temp job at Goodwill, doing assembly/fulfillment work, Goodwill ultimately hired her as a permanent employee, and she now assists her supervisor with incoming orders. Shasha has moved in with her father and reunited with her daughter. "Don't give up," she said, "there is always hope and there is help out there."

Select News Coverage:

LA County Channel 36

- The [Veteran Peer Access Network](#) (VPAN) is helping to provide George Dalga and other veterans experiencing homelessness the vital services they need to survive and thrive.
- The [Springhaven](#) housing community will bring much needed resources to families and individuals who have experienced homelessness.
- Jason Tucker is now no longer living on the streets. He has the keys to his own home at [Vista Del Puerto](#).



Los Angeles Times

- [Op-Ed: They aren't just 'the homeless.' They're our neighbors, and these are their stories](#)
- [Feds extend funding through spring to help L.A. house homeless people in hotels](#)
- [L.A. county clears homeless encampment outside VA campus; vets offered shelter inside](#)

Los Angeles Daily News

- [LA County's homeless are seeing fewer coronavirus infections](#)
- [LA County bans homeless encampments in very high fire hazard zones](#)
- [LA to add up to 1,000 homeless housing units with \\$2.75 billion in new state money](#)
- [San Gabriel Valley's sheltered homeless population declines by 19%](#)

Los Angeles Magazine

- [A 19-Story Tower Coming to Skid Row Will Be L.A.'s Biggest Homeless Housing Project of Its Kind](#)

EVOLVING APPROACHES AND NEW INSIGHTS

HOMELESS INITIATIVE STRATEGY REASSESSMENT

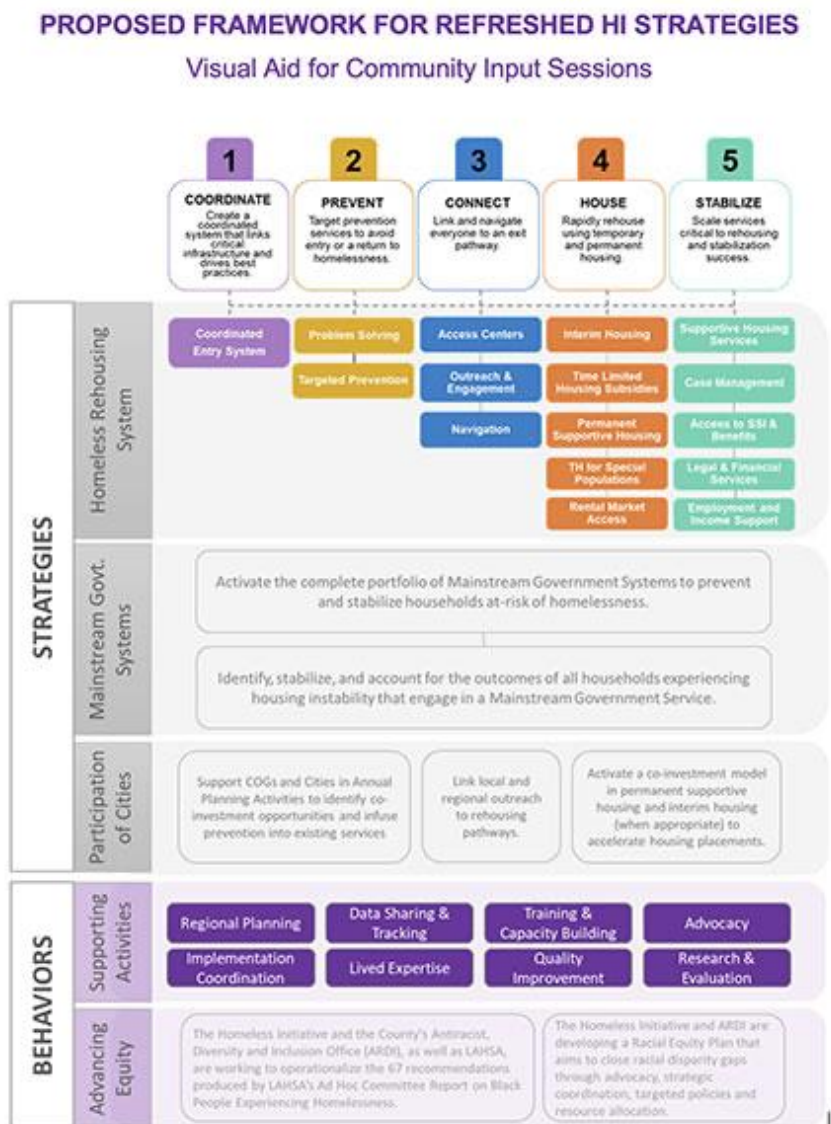
On April 20, 2021, the Board of Supervisors adopted a [motion](#) directing the Homeless Initiative and its partners to assess its strategies and recommend improvements.

The Homeless Initiative responded by reviewing stakeholder input over the past few years, along with research and evaluations, to generate [a set of draft recommendations](#) presented to the public during 14 community input sessions this quarter.

Residents in each of the County's eight service planning areas were encouraged to provide feedback on draft recommendations during the community sessions as well as by filling out an online survey.

Separate sessions were held to solicit input from service providers, people with lived expertise in homelessness, cities and Councils of Government, County departments, LAHSA, and more.

The Homeless Initiative submitted an interim report to the Board in October. It is currently reviewing all the public feedback and plans to submit its final set of recommendations before the end of 2021.



BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON HOMELESSNESS

Established by the Board of Supervisors in July 2021, the Blue Ribbon Commission on Homelessness (BRCH) convened six meetings between September and November 2021 to gain new insight for addressing homelessness and to identify opportunities to enhance LAHSA's governance system.

The meetings have included presentations about the origins of the homeless crisis; an overview of the work of the Homeless Initiative, LAHSA, and various County departments and agencies; a report on how the homeless services system is funded; what can be done to better engage city governments and Councils of Government; racial inequity among people experiencing homelessness; and many other topics.

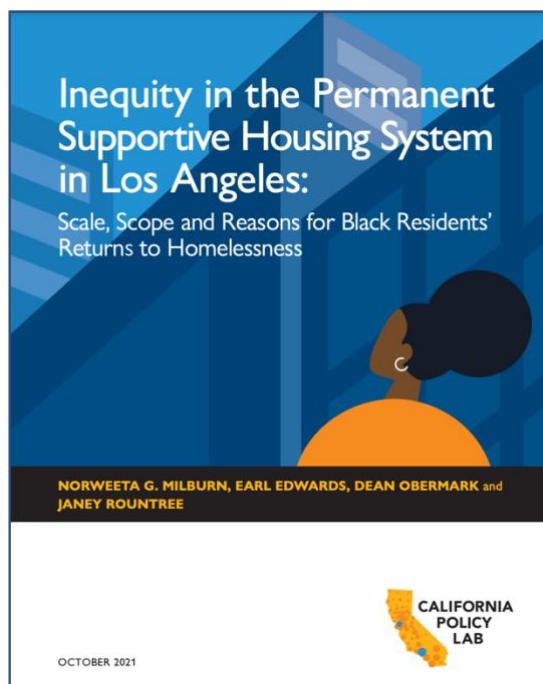
NEW INSIGHT: Inequity in the Permanent Supportive Housing System in Los Angeles: Scale, Scope and Reasons for Black Residents' Returns to Homelessness – California Policy Lab

A [new report](#) released by the nonpartisan California Policy Lab (CPL) at UCLA provides an in-depth look at racial inequities among people who leave permanent supportive housing (PSH) programs in Los Angeles and subsequently become homeless again.

The researchers found that between 2010 and 2019, about one in four (25%) Black, single adult residents left PSH placements in L.A. and returned to either interim housing or to street homelessness. Black PSH residents are 39% more likely to return to homelessness than White PSH residents.

Adjusting for resident demographics, prior homelessness and Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) service history, housing type, and specific PSH programs, Black residents are still 19% more likely than White residents to return to homelessness.

This analysis is unique because it is based on ten years of housing enrollment data, allowing the researchers to observe outcomes over a much longer time period than is typical for research focused on PSH outcomes. This research builds on the groundbreaking 2018 report by LAHSA's Ad Hoc Committee on Black People Experiencing Homelessness.





Los Angeles County
HOMELESS INITIATIVE

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